

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1152

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 5279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, OVIP (CARNEIRO, FRANCISCO SA)

SUBJ: VISIT OF PPD DELEGATION TO US

REF: LISBON 5271, STATE 256511

1. PPD DELEGATION CONSISTING OF SIX PERSONS IN TOTAL DEPARTED LISBON TWA 901 AT 1520 DECEMBER 1 EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON. GROUP SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT BY DCM AND POLITICAL COUNSELLOR. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN SCANT COVERAGE TO VISIT SO FAR.

2. DELEGATION CONSISTS OF PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO, AGE 40, A LAWYER WHO ENTERED POLITICS FOR FIRST TIME AS A DEPUTY FROM OPORTO IN NOVEMBER 1970 ELECTIONS. A LEADER OF LIBERAL WING IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HE QUIT IN JANUARY 1973 TO PROTEST AFTER ALL BILLS HE HAD INTRODUCED WERE REJECTED AS "INCONVENIENT" BY THE ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP. AFTER HIS RESIGNATION HE DEVOTED HIMSELF FULL TIME TO PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE. ALONG WITH FORMER LIBERAL DEPUTIES PINTO BALSEMAO AND MAGALHAES MOTA, SA CARNEIRO FOUNDED THE PPD SOON AFTER THE APRIL 25 COUP. SA CARNEIRO SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLUENTLY. HE IS NOT TRAVELING WITH HIS WIFE. THIS IS SA CARNEIRO'S FIRST TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES.

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3. OTHERS IN PPD DELEGATION ARE DR. FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMAO, A MEMBER OF THE PPD'S 15-MAN POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND EDITOR OF THE INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY EXPRESSO. BALSEMAO IS TRAVELING WITH HIS WIFE MERCEDES, WHO, LIKE HIM SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. BALSEMAO TRAVELED TO THE US IN 1965 ON A PARTIAL USIS LEADER GRANT AND MADE SEVERAL PRIVATE TRIPS SUBSEQUENTLY. MERCEDES, WHO WORKS FOR THE PPD AND ACCOMPANIES BALSEMAO WHEREVER HE TRAVELS, IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE VISITED THE US PREVIOUSLY.

4. REMAINDER OF DELEGATION CONSISTS OF DR. RUI MACHETE, EDITOR OF PPD WEEKLY POVO LIVRE, AND RECENTLY ELECTED PPD ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, AND DR. HERNANI LOPES, A BANK OF PORTUGAL OFFICIAL WHO HAS BEEN TO US IN PAST AND SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH. SA CARNEIRO'S PERSONAL SECRETARY, MARIA DA CONCEICAO MONTEIRO, WHO KNOWS SOME ENGLISH, ALSO TRAVELING.
SCOTT

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